

File: *OLL**.OCC*

## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Providing Source Information to Oversight Committees

FROM:

Charles A. Briggs  
Director, Office of Legislative Liaison

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

14 FEB 1985

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

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OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

EXDIR

20 FEB 1985

2.

3.

DDCI

22 FEB 1985

4.

5.

DCI

22 Feb.

1 MAY 1985

6.

DDCI

02 MAY 1985

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D/OLL

8.

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15.

I wonder if this should not be said face-to-face by the DCI & DDCI rather than by letter? Letters are cold.

Agree - conversation highly desirable.

7: Assume your conversation w/ DDCI on procedures makes this OBS?

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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

The Honorable Joseph Addabbo, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As we enter the 99th session of the Congress, I am obliged to write to you about one matter which is of great importance to me and to your Committee; namely, how best to furnish your Committee with the information it requires to carry out its responsibilities, while at the same time allowing me to carry out mine with respect to the protection of sources and methods. My major concern is the protection of secret sources who enter into a relationship with this Agency which places them in great personal danger with no protection other than our assurance that we will keep the relationship secret.

There are many variations of these relationships. Some involve payment for services. Some involve providing financial support to an individual or a group who are acting in their own political interest which happens to coincide with the interests of the U.S. Government. Some receive no payment or support of any kind but nevertheless run deep risks because of what they do for us or merely because of their association with us. In all these cases the association is secret and the risk due to exposure is severe. Great harm can also be caused by exposure of sensitive liaison relations and these too must be given the same protection as individual sources.

Historically, the Intelligence Oversight Committees have recognized the necessity for maximum protection of sensitive source relationships by restricting requests for such information to those narrow situations wherein there was substantive evidence of illegality, and the identification of a relationship was a necessary element to prove or disprove the charge. In recent times there has been some tendency for staffs to request sensitive relationship information on a much wider and more speculative basis.

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I believe it is in our joint interest to reaffirm our commitment to the protection of these relationships. Consequently, I am directing all personnel of this Agency to stop the communication of such information except in those unusual circumstances to be agreed to by you and me. Whenever your Committee requests information concerning a sensitive relationship, either I or John McMahon will personally review the request and will contact you to discuss and resolve the issue. In this way I believe we can securely provide the information the Committee needs to do its work while avoiding unnecessary risks to sensitive sources.

I would be pleased to discuss this matter further with you if you so desire.

Sincerely,

William J. Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence

**Distribution:**

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D/OLL:CAB:mt (14 Feb 85)